ABSTRACT

An index server support for file sharing applications is disclosed. A way of retrieving an index

5   server includes sending a request for investigating a hierarchical structure of index servers in a

network to a known index server, intercepting the investigation request by the first index server

that becomes aware of the investigation request, notifying an originator of the investigation

request of the intercepting index server identity, dropping the intercepted request is dropped by

the intercepting index server. The originator of the investigation request then registers the

10   intercepting index server as addressee for future file querying requests.